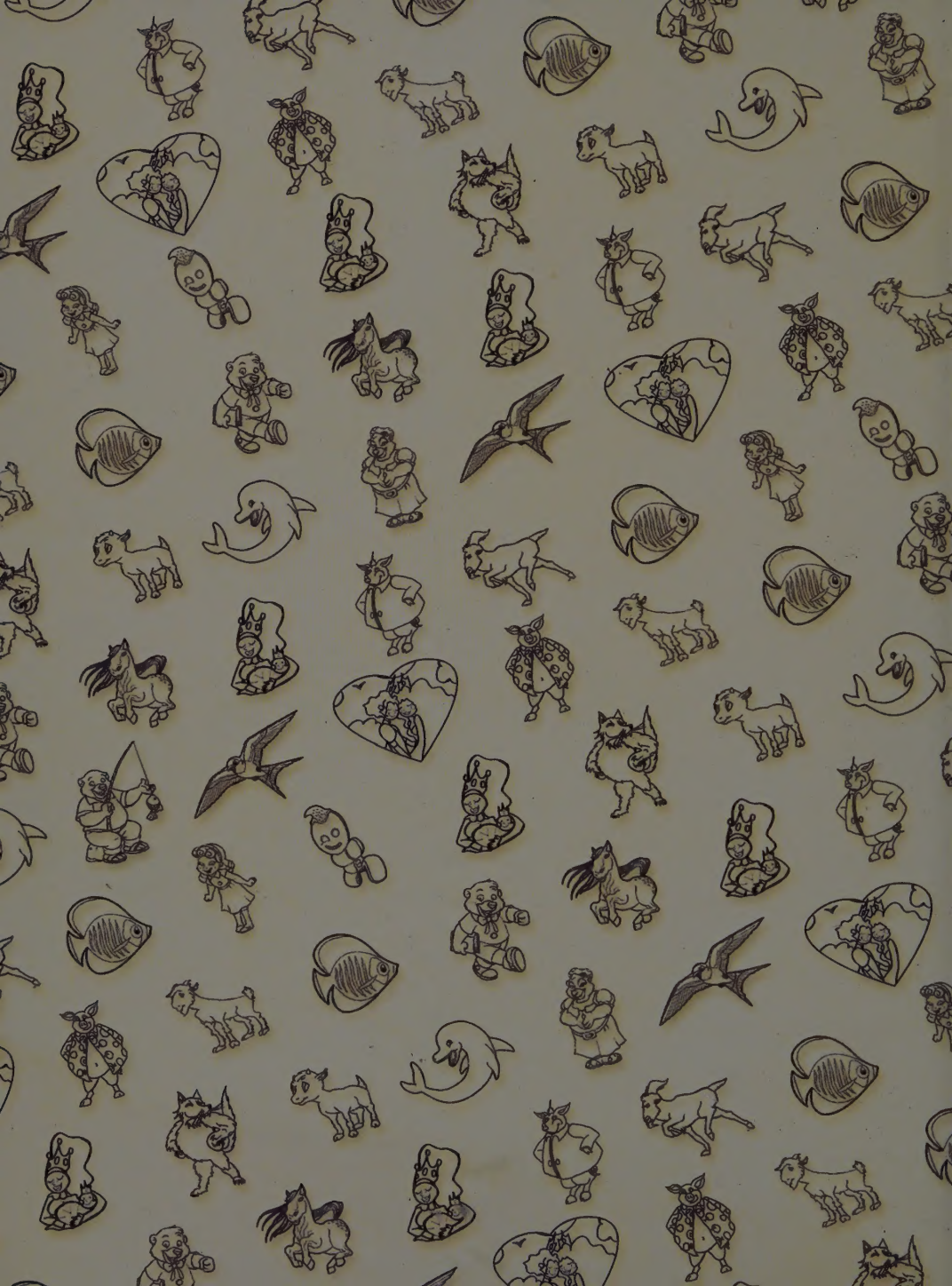
# Cinderella

Adapted by
Larry Carney

Illustrated by
Marco Arantes



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**Cinderella**

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Songs Produced and Performed by D. B. Harris
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Once upon a time, in a kingdom far away, there lived a very beautiful girl named Cinderella. Cinderella was very kind-hearted and always had a smile for everyone she met.

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Cinderella lived with her cruel stepmother and stepsisters. They were all jealous of Cinderella's beauty, and were very mean to her.

Cinderella was forced to do all the work around the house while her stepsisters did not have to do anything at all. From sunrise to sunset, Cinderella cooked, cleaned, swept, scrubbed, and washed.

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One day an announcement was sent throughout the kingdom that the King was holding a gala ball in honor of his son, the Prince. Every young woman in the land was invited. The Prince was a very handsome young man, and girls everywhere found themselves lost in daydreams of dancing with him.

Cinderella also found herself imagining how wonderful it would be to meet the handsome Prince. When her stepmother noticed her daydreaming, she scolded Cinderella and told her to stop being lazy and to get back to work. Cinderella resumed scrubbing the floor as her thoughts filled with images of the gala ball.

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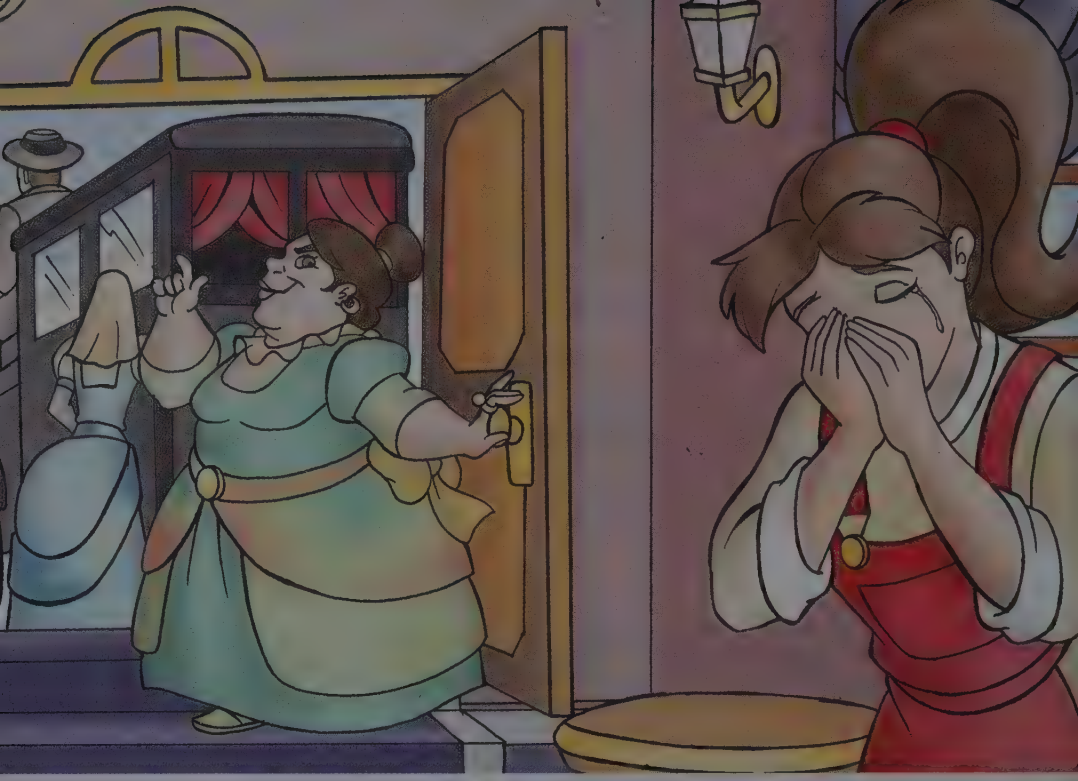
A few days before the ball, Cinderella's stepsisters came to her and said, "Cinderella, we've asked Mother, and she said that you are to make us gowns for the ball." Cinderella smiled and said, "Oh, I'll be happy to. It won't be any problem, since I've got to make my own gown as well." When they heard this, her stepsisters laughed, "What do you mean? You are not going! Mother said that a simple washer girl like you is not fit for royal company!"

Cinderella was crushed to hear this. She begged her stepmother to let her go to the ball, but her stepmother told her, "Nonsense! The royal family isn't interested in seeing a little floor sweeper like you! Besides, you have work to do. Now get back to your chores." Cinderella felt as though her heart was breaking.



The day of the ball, Cinderella watched as her stepsisters dressed in the fine gowns she had made for them. They made her fix their hair and apply their makeup. Then, when the coach arrived to take them to the ball, they skipped out the door without as much as a look back at their stepsister. Cinderella watched sadly as they rode toward the castle. When their coach was out of sight, she closed the door and wept.

As she knelt down and began washing the floors, Cinderella could not stop crying. The ball had been the one time in her sad life when she thought she might have felt joy. Now all of her hopes and dreams had been crushed.

As Cinderella cleaned, she noticed a strange change in the air. There was a sound of tinkling bells and a little sparkle of light, and suddenly a chubby little woman appeared, floating in the air. Surprised, Cinderella wiped the tears from her eyes and tried to smile at the little woman. "Oh, hello," said Cinderella nervously. The little woman smiled warmly and said, "Well, hello to you, dear Cinderella."

Cinderella listened as the little woman told her that she was her fairy godmother. She told Cinderella that she had sensed how sad she was that she couldn't go to the ball and had come to help. "Oh, you don't know how happy this makes me!" Cinderella said, "Do you really think I can go to the ball?" The fairy godmother smiled and nodded, "Oh yes, yes. Let's go out to the garden and get you ready." TURN PAGE

In the garden, the fairy godmother pointed her wand at a big, round pumpkin. In a flash of light it was turned into a beautiful coach. Cinderella watched with wonder as the fairy godmother pointed her wand at some scurrying field mice, which suddenly became fine horses. Then she pointed her wand at a frog hopping near the fountain, and it was turned into a friendly coachman.

Cinderella clapped her hands and laughed at the wonderful magic. Then she looked down at her tattered clothes and said sadly, "Oh, fairy godmother, thank you for your help, but I'm afraid I still can't go to the ball. I would be ashamed to go dressed in these rags." The fairy godmother gave a little giggle, waved her wand at Cinderella and—POOF!—in a flash of fairy light Cinderella found herself dressed in the finest gown she had ever seen. And on her feet was a pair of glass slippers that twinkled like diamonds.

Cinderella looked at her fairy godmother and said, "Oh, how can I ever thank you for this?" The fairy godmother smiled warmly at her and said, "Dear child, you can thank me by having the most wonderful time at the ball." Then her face grew serious. "There is one thing that you must remember. When the clock strikes twelve, you must return home, for the spell shall end at midnight." Cinderella promised that she would return in time. Then she climbed into the coach and was off to the ball.

Everyone at the ball was having a wonderful time. There was plenty of food and music and the castle was filled with the laughter of cheerful people. The Prince, though, was not having a very good time. He sat at a banquet table and watched as everyone danced. Fancy balls didn't interest him much, but because the King had given this party in his honor, he pretended to enjoy himself.

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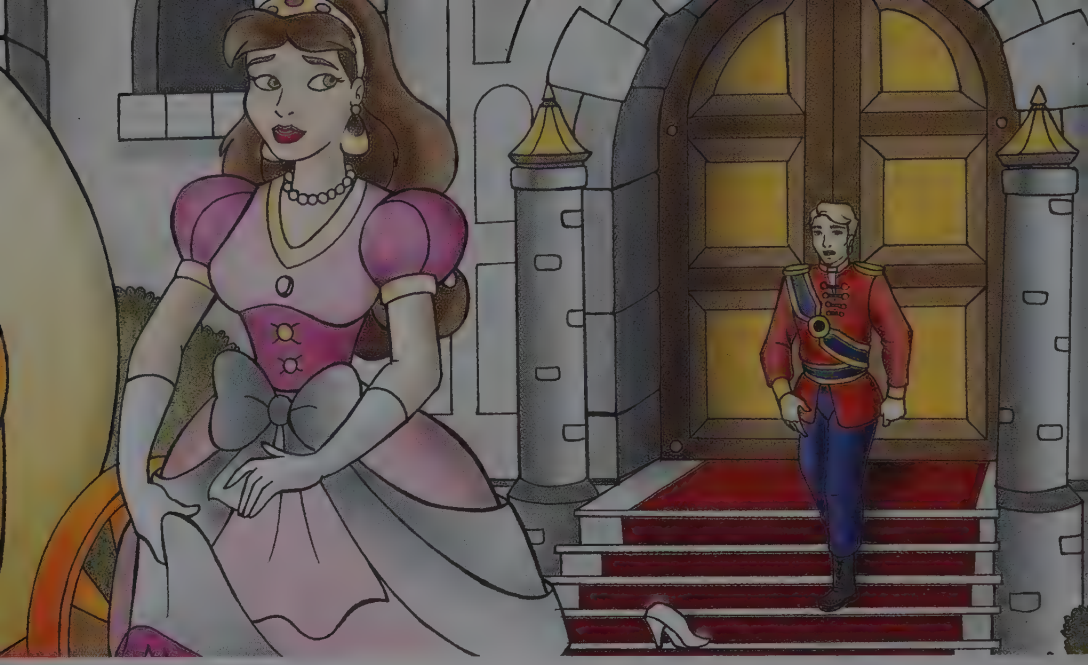
When the Prince saw Cinderella enter the hall, he stood and rushed over to Cinderella's side. Cinderella's heart was racing with excitement as the Prince bowed low and asked her to dance. Everyone watched as this charming couple took to the dance floor.

Cinderella and the handsome Prince danced the night away. It was love at first sight, and every moment they spent together made their hearts sing with joy. The King and Queen were very happy to see their son so taken with such a beautiful young woman, and they watched very pleased as the two of them enjoyed themselves at the ball. TURN PAGE



Cinderella and the Prince were still dancing together when suddenly the clock began to strike midnight. Though it broke her heart, Cinderella told the Prince that she had to leave. He begged her not to go, but Cinderella remembered the words of her fairy godmother. She couldn't bear to have the Prince see her beautiful gown turn back into a ragged dress. With one last fond look into his eyes, Cinderella turned and ran out of the hall. As she was fleeing, one of her glass slippers fell off her foot and lay on the stairs.

Cinderella jumped into the coach as it sped away. As soon as she arrived home, the coach turned back into a pumpkin. The coachman became a frog again and hopped away. The horses turned back into mice and scurried across the garden. Cinderella watched with sadness as her beautiful gown changed back into a tattered dress.

Cinderella rose the next day with thoughts of the handsome prince. She cooked breakfast as her stepsisters sat at the table, talking about the ball. Cinderella's heart skipped a beat as they gossiped with much envy about the beautiful woman that had so enchanted the Prince.

They said the Prince was beside himself with heartache over the beautiful girl that he had danced with at the ball—the beautiful girl who had stolen his heart and then ran away. In an effort to find her he was taking the glass slipper to every house in the kingdom and asking every maiden to try on the slipper.

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In time the Prince knocked on Cinderella's door. She watched as her stepsisters tried on the slipper. They both tried to wiggle their feet into the slipper, but it was much too small to fit either of them. The servant saw Cinderella and asked her to try on the slipper. Her stepsisters laughed and said that she was just a simple cleaning girl and hadn't even gone to the ball. But the Prince's orders were for every woman in the kingdom to try on the slipper.

Cinderella placed her foot in the glass slipper and, to everyone's surprise, it fit perfectly. When he saw this, the Prince ran to her side. Even though she was dressed in rags, he knew she was the woman who had stolen his heart the night before. He took her hand and kissed it. Cinderella smiled at her dear Prince as her stepsisters watched in disbelief.

Shortly thereafter, Cinderella and the handsome Prince were married. Their wedding was celebrated by the entire kingdom—except of course for her stepmother and stepsisters, who now had to cook and clean for themselves. Cinderella and her beloved Prince lived very, very happily ever after.

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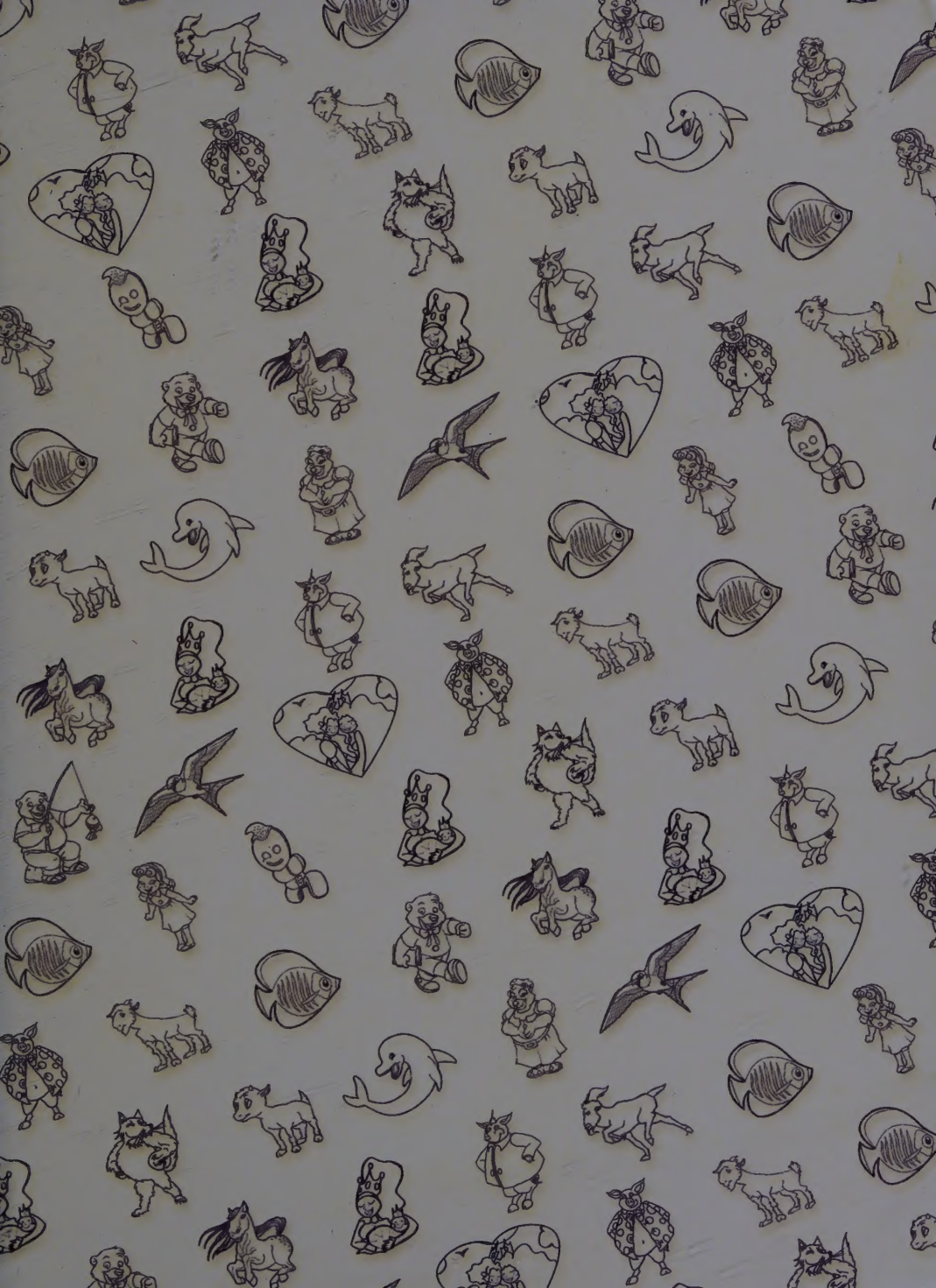

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